

From Father Kirby...

January 22, 2023

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Today, we again hear the Gospel and are invited to recommit ourselves to Jesus Christ. We are summoned to declare him the Lord of our lives.

This Sunday, January 22, at our 11:00 AM Mass, we'll be blessing and reposing a relic of the beloved Padre Pio. The relic will be placed in the niche near his statue. It is a great joy for us to welcome the relic of such a devoted follower of the Lord Jesus! In celebration, our monthly Fellowship will follow the 11:00 AM Mass.

Here are some things happening at the parish this week:

We are happy to welcome Wesley Dry to our parish staff as our new Director of Buildings and Grounds. Wesley has been with us for about six weeks. We are further delighted to congratulate Wesley and his wife Anna on the birth of their first baby! *Congratulations, Wesley and Anna!*

Our tax letters were mailed out this past week. Thank you to everyone who financially supported the mission of our parish this past year! If you have any questions, please direct them to our Parish Bookkeeper, Sally Santimaw: ssantimaw@charlestdiocese.org.

Starting this Tuesday, January 23, Deacon Doc has moved our parish Book Club to Tuesdays from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM. The book club is currently walking through [*Sanctify Them in Truth: How the Church's Social Doctrine Addresses the Issues of Our Time*](#). The book walks through various moral questions in our society today. All are welcome to join the Book Club!

At the request of our Bishop, every Thursday from 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM, the parish hosts a special Holy Hour for priestly vocations. All are invited to come and pray for this pressing prayer intention.

Our next prayer outreach at the local abortion facility is this coming Saturday, January 28, at 8:30 AM. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, NC. All parishioners are strongly encouraged to come and join us in this peaceful, prayerful protest in defense of life. A free bus is available from the parish. Please email or stop by the Front Office to reserve your seat!

Please note our new [calendar for the program year 2022/2023](#) is now posted on our parish website. The calendar describes all of our events and programs for the coming year.

I'd like to encourage every household of the parish to register for [FORMED](#). This is a free digital platform with family friendly content.

Some other future events I'd like to highlight:

On Thursday, February 2, we'll celebrate the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) at our Noon Mass. All parishioners are encouraged to come and bring any candles they'd like to be blessed.

The feast of Saint Blaise, February 3, falls on First Friday this year. We will still offer the traditional Blessing of Throats but will do so during our Mass of the Sacred Heart at 7:00 PM.

Our Deacon Candidate, Tom Heath, will be ordained a permanent deacon by our Bishop on Saturday, February 4, at 11:00 AM at the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist in Charleston. All are welcome and invited to attend the Ordination.

Our 11:00 AM Mass on Sunday, February 12, will be our future Deacon Heath's Mass of Thanksgiving. *All parishioners are strongly encouraged to come and celebrate our new Deacon's Ordination.* A reception with personal Diaconal Blessings will follow the Mass.

On Sunday, February 19, around 12:15 PM, we'll have our parish Mardi Gras celebration. We'll have some food, bouncy houses, desserts, and a lot of fun. The event is free. All are welcome!

On March 4-5, the parish will send a group of young people to the [Diocesan Youth Conference \(DYC\)](#) in Columbia, SC. Any high school student who would like to attend should reach out to John Paul Rusciolelli: jrusciolelli@charlestdiocese.org. Please reach out soon as seats are filling quickly.

The parish is happy to host a pilgrimage to the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) and the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament on April 12-14. [Here is the link](#) for more information.

I want to encourage parishioners to please pre-plan their funerals with the parish. Monty Bennett, our Director of Sacred Music, is happy to meet with any parishioner and go through the pre-planning process. Monty can be reached at mbennett@charlestdiocese.org.

Be sure to read and review our revised and updated [Security/Safety Protocols for Parishioners](#) and [Church/Holy Communion Pandemic Protocols](#).

More updates next week! Oremus pro invicem (let's pray for one another)!

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